



# CALLING THE SHOTS

Summer Issue



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## VFC Vaccine Ordering 101

By Loriann M. Kanno, PharmD.



Many providers have called and inquired about the completion of the VFC Vaccine Order

Form, requesting the “magic formula” to calculate the number of doses used or the appropriate number of doses needed. There is no “magic formula” to acquire these numbers. However, the following should provide some useful information to assist you with the completion of the VFC Vaccine Order Form and also to provide some insight into the review process that occurs with the vaccine orders.

Upon receiving a VFC vaccine order at the Hawaii Immunization Program (HIP), a check is done of the last update made to that provider’s profile and of the number of VAVR forms submitted by that provider. If the provider has not updated his/her profile since August 1st of the prior year, the provider is contacted and a request for an updated profile is made. If the provider has not submitted VAVR forms on a regular basis or has not submitted VAVR forms proportionate to the number of doses of vaccine used, a request for submission of completed VAVR forms is made to the provider.

Once the profile and VAVR form reviews are done, the vaccine order form is screened for the following:

- Completed provider information section (VFC provider code, name and address of physician/practice/clinic, delivery days, contact person, and telephone and fax number).
- Completed “Number of Doses Used” column.\* This number should be the number of doses of vaccine that were used (including those administered, wasted, transferred, returned, expired) since that particular vaccine was last ordered.
- Completed “Vaccine Inventory” section.\* This section should ONLY include VFC (and Teen Vax) vaccines, not private stock vaccines. It is NOT necessary to keep separate inventories of your VFC and Teen Vax vaccines.

\*These sections need only be completed for those vaccines being ordered.

With demands from the Federal Program for stricter vaccine accountability measures, it has become necessary to closely review each order as previously outlined. If you require additional assistance with completing the VFC Vaccine Order Form or if you have questions that remain unanswered, please contact the Vaccine Supply and Distribution Unit at 586-8300 (neighbor islands: 1-800-933-4832).

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**By the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, all incoming 7th graders must have:**

- 1) A record of the following immunizations:  
3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine;  
2 doses of MMR vaccine;  
1 or 2 doses of varicella vaccine (or provider-documented history of disease);  
OR
- 2) A doctor’s appointment slip or note showing that they will complete the required vaccines.



Students missing either of these requirements will NOT be permitted to enter school on the first day. If your office does not have a particular vaccine due to shortages, please write a note for the child’s school indicating that the child will be recalled when the vaccine becomes available. To assist you in your effort to recall these patients, **Vax To School** recall postcards are available at no charge through the Hawaii Immunization Program. (See reverse for details.)



# TALK TO THE DOC...

By Marcia M. Nagao, M.D., M.P.H.

## Are Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccines and Pediatric Diphtheria/Tetanus (DT) vaccines available through the VFC Program?

Yes, both vaccines are available for *eligible children* through the VFC Program.

Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV 23) is available for children and adolescents ages 2-18 years with:

- Functional or anatomic asplenia
- Immunocompromising illnesses (HIV, AIDS, malignancies, chronic renal failure, nephrotic syndrome, or organ transplants) or who are receiving immunocompromising medications
- Chronic illnesses (cardiopulmonary disease excluding asthma; DM; CSF leak)

or who are:

- Alaskan Natives or American Indians
- Bone marrow recipients.

Pediatric diphtheria/tetanus vaccine (DT) is available for children 6 weeks through 6 years of age in whom pertussis vaccination is contraindicated.

## What's New?

### VAX TO SCHOOL RESOURCES:

"New Immunization Rules to Attend School" Poster  
&  
Patient Recall Postcard



### PRINTED MATERIALS:



*Amy Immunosaurus: A Healthy Dinosaur Tale Coloring Book*. Produced by the Hawaii Immunization Coalition and the Department of Health in English, Chinese, Hawaiian, Ilocano, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases, 7th edition (*The Pink Book*). Produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Price: \$25.00.



### HIP WEBSITE:



For useful immunization information at your fingertips, check out our website at: [www.state.hi.us/doh/immunization/index.html](http://www.state.hi.us/doh/immunization/index.html)

To request educational materials such as those mentioned above, please call 586-8323. Neighbor islands call 1-800-933-4832 toll-free.

## VFC Vaccine Ordering 101 continued...

Although there is no "magic formula," using the following three-step process can assist you with estimating the number of doses of a particular vaccine you need to order.

**Step 1** — First, calculate the average number of doses you use each month:

$$\frac{\text{\# of doses used since last order (a)}}{\text{\# of months since last order}} = \text{approximate \# of doses used per month}$$



**Step 2** — Compute the minimum # of doses you will need to carry you through to the next ordering period:

$$\text{approximate \# of doses used per month (Step 1)} \times \text{\# of months until the next ordering period} = \text{Minimum \# of doses needed to carry through to the next ordering period}$$

**Step 3** — Finally, calculate the number of doses you need to order, and round to the nearest full package size:

$$\text{Minimum \# of doses needed to carry through to the next ordering period (Step 2)} + \text{Backstock (b)} - \text{\# of doses currently on-hand} = \text{\# of doses to be ordered}$$

a) To calculate the **number of doses** of a particular vaccine **used since the last order**, count the number of doses recorded on the VAVR forms and/or the vaccine usage log.

b) A **backstock**, or supply in excess of the calculated number of doses required, is allowed as a "cushion," especially when there is an anticipated increase in immunization needs (i.e. summer). Backstocks should *generally* not exceed the estimated number of doses used in a month.

**Example:** If the number of doses used since your last order was **35**, you currently have **4** doses on-hand, and it's been **4** months since your last order:

**Step 1:**  $35 \div 4 = 8.75$  (about **9**)

**Step 2:**  $9 \times 3 = 27$

**Step 3:**  $27 + 9 - 4 = 32$  (about **40**)